Foodgrains Production Data

*538. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimates regarding the quantity of foodgrain production and area under cultivation of different foodgrains are not accurate;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Centre Instituted Scientific Data Gathering System is in existence in the country for the last few years;

(d) if so, the reasons for not giving accurate agricultural data despite using the said system;

(e) the present system used for gathering the agricultural data; and

(f) the future plan of the Government to bring improvement in the existing system?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) Estimates of area under cultivation and production of foodgrains in the country are having a high degree of reliability and accuracy.

(c) and (d) There is no such scheme under implementation through the Central Government. As stated in parts (a) & (b) of answer above, the agricultural data carries a high degree of accuracy.

(e) Under the present system, statistics of area under crops is collected through complete enumeration in all the States except Orissa, Kerala and West Bengal which are non-land record states. In these three States, statistics of area are collected through Sample Surveys. The yield statistics are obtained by organising crop cutting experiments through a multi-stage startified random sampling design. The production estimates are derived as a product of area and yield estimates. Under the Timely Reporting Scheme (TRS), there is a provision of advance enumeration of 20 percent of the area to provide early estimates of area statistics. Under the Improvement of Crop Statistics (ICS), there is a provision of supervision over the work of area enumeration by the revenue agency in about ten thousand villages in the country; and over crop cutting experiments by the Centre and State on matching basis on about 30,000 crop cutting experiments every year.

(f) Under the schemes for improvement of agricultural statistics, various programmes are likely to be initiated to improve the accuracy and reliability of crop production estimates. These include:

(i) Extension of organisation of crop cutting experiments in the areas/crops which are not presently covered;

(ii) Establishment of an Agency for Reporting of Agriculture Statistics (EARAS) in North-Eastern States where no system at present exists; and

(iii) Use of statellite based remote sensing technique for crop area and production estimates to build pre-harvest estimates for all crops and in all the States.

[English]

Smuggling of Arms

*539. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL:
SHRI S.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the type and number of illegal country-made/ smuggled foreign arms seized during the last three years till date, State-wise/UT-wise;

(b) the details of the origin of these illegal arms;

(c) the steps taken to check the entry of the illegal foreign arms;

(d) the total number of persons arrested so far during the said period State-wise/UT-wise; and

(e) the action being taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) and (b) The information is being obtained from the States/UTs and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Government is alive to the situation and are taking appropriate steps in this regard. State Governments have been asked to appoint nodal officers for coordinating all actions for carrying out reinforced surveillance. Other steps include gearing up of intelligence machinery, stricter enforcement of existing regulations and a close coordination between the concerned Central and State agencies.

(d) and (e) The information is being obtained from the States/UTs and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Pulses

*540. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA:
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of pulses in the country leading to abnormal rise in their prices;